

## New Distribution Records for Three Vascular Plants—*Cypripedium acaule*, *Acer negundo*, and *Silene virginica*—in Eastern North Carolina

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A single specimen of *Cypripedium acaule*, the pink moccasin flower, was found in bloom on May 10, 1971, in Carteret County, N.C., approximately 0.25 mile east of the Core Creek canal portion of the Intracoastal Waterway and about 1 mile north of N.C. Highway 101. The plant occupied a dry area in the low pine flatwoods about 20 feet from a field-woods boundary. An Ektachrome slide of the plant is available.

Although Radford, Ahles, and Bell (1968) depict *C. acaule* as being present in Craven and Jones counties, the plant has not been recorded from other coastal counties. Our discovery represents the southeasternmost record of *C. acaule* for the Carolinas.

Box elder trees, *Acer negundo*, are numerous along the banks of the Trent River at Trenton, Jones County, North Carolina. The trees range to approximately 25 feet tall and most bear fruit. Young trees are numerous. The colony extends for at least two miles upstream from Trenton and probably downstream as well. Our identification was verified by Mr. E. Grushinski, District Ranger, Croatan National Forest, New Bern, N.C.

Little (1971) depicts box elders as absent from the Atlantic Coastal Plain from southern New Jersey to Miami except for a small area in central coastal South Carolina. Radford, Ahles, and Bell (1968) record box elder from only Bertie and Martin counties in coastal North Carolina and two counties in central coastal South Carolina, but as otherwise absent from the entire central and southern coastal plain of the Carolinas.

The presence of box elders at Trenton may be related to the topography of the site. The Trent River at that point is not a typical black water, swampy coastal stream, but instead has a moderate gradient and noticeable current and runs between high, steep banks. Usually one bank extends steeply to approximately 40 feet above the water and is covered by upland hardwoods, while the other bank, usually of alluvial material, is 8 to 10 feet above the water and supports box elders, willows, and other trees typical of areas occasionally flooded. The river, itself, often flows over bed rock. A gravelly riffle area, rare in the Coastal Plain, exists upstream from Trenton. This topography is typical of the Piedmont or the Midwest, where the box elder is common.

On the river banks above the usual high-water line, fire pinks, *Silene virginica*, are common. This species was recorded previously from only three counties on the North Carolina Coastal Plain—Martin, Brunswick, and Craven (Radford, Ahles, and Bell, 1968); the latter adjoins Jones County.

Our discoveries suggest that the coastal area of North Carolina is still a verdant site for botanical exploration.

### LITERATURE CITED

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